

PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR BONE ANCHORED HEARING AID (BAHA)

Patient Selection:

1. Minimum age is five (5) years.
2. Conductive or mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, where an air conductive hearing aid is not workable such as: Malformation of the external ear canal or middle ear including, but not limited to, microtia which makes wearing an external aid impossible, stenosis or atresia of the external auditory canal, chronic middle ear infection and drainage, severe otitis externa and allergic reactions to external hearing aids.
3. Audiologic criteria:
 - a. Pure tone average bone conduction threshold of up to 70 db;
 - b. Speech discrimination score better than 60%.

Psychosocial Evaluation:

1. Patient's cognitive function must be sufficient to allow him/her to understand and participate in the decision-making process and in the care/maintenance of the implant unit.
2. Patient/family must have been compliant with previous medical and audiological management at CRS.
3. Patient/family must commit to necessary otologic, audiologic, educational and therapeutic follow-up outlined in the treatment plan.

References:

1. Clinical Policy Bulletin: Bone-anchored Hearing Aid, Aetna, 7/20/2007, www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0403.html.
2. TA 6.38 Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA), 5/2005, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.
3. Bedford and Hertfordshire INTERIM Priorities Forum Statement Number 30: Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHAs), October 2006.